

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q² If no failure is detected, packets are forwarded along the initial route or alternative route until the traffic ends at step 325 and the process finishes in step 326. Single or multiple failures in the system can be supported by directing traffic to alternative routes stored locally at alternative-route-enabled nodes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 22 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 4, and 18 as follows:

Sub (Amended) A network for forwarding packets from a source device to a destination device, said network including a plurality of network elements including nodes and connecting links, a master server for monitoring the network and establishing an initial route between the source device and the destination device, wherein at least one of the nodes comprises:

Q³ a processor to compute at least one alternative route for the initial route;
 a storage space to store the initial route and the at least one alternative route;
 a mechanism to detect failure in a downstream network element in the initial route; and
 a forwarder to automatically forward a packet to the next node on one of the at least one alternative route.

Q4 4. (Amended) The node of claim 1, wherein the processor computes an alternative route not including the downstream network element in the initial route.

Q5 18. (Amended) A method for locally rerouting packets traveling on an established route when a node in a network of interconnected nodes fails, the method comprising:

computing, at a plurality of intermediary nodes along the established route, an alternative route leading from the computing node to the destination device of the established route;

determining locally that the established route has failed; and

automatically forwarding packets on the alternative route.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner requests that the Information Disclosure Statement, filed October 18, 1999, be resubmitted; rejects claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-13, and 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by DOSHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,113); and objects to claims 3, 7, and 14 as containing allowable subject matter.

By way of this amendment, Applicants propose amending Figs. 3A and 3B to correct typographical errors. Applicants amend the specification to improve form. Applicants cancel claims 22 and 23 and amend claims 1, 4, and 18 to improve form, not to overcome the art of record. Claims 1-21 are pending.